

# STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS AT WORK

Rep. Glenn Grothman, 6th District

Federal **State Wildlife Grants** are the only nationwide program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These grants have been critical for Wisconsin, yet despite many conservation successes, the state has more than 400 Species of Greatest Conservation Need - and more than 100 are endangered or threatened. Once species become endangered, especially at the federal level, they often require costly “emergency room” conservation and regulatory measures which are not sustainable in the long-term.

The **Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (HR 2773)** is designed to keep species off endangered and threatened lists. It would provide the most important boost for conservation in decades and would fund the highest priorities in our state using an existing blueprint: Wisconsin’s Wildlife Action Plan. Agencies, organizations, and individuals across the state already do critically important work to conserve fish, wildlife, and our natural areas, and RAWA would help them do more.



## Examples of on-the-ground conservation work in 2019-20.

- Restored 205 acres of oak savanna, oak and other forest communities, and 115 acres of prairie and grassland habitats using prescribed burning
- Restored 45 acres of turtle nesting habitat in Columbia county
- Controlled invasive plant species across 461 acres of public lands within the district.
- Completed property management and maintenance activities for 12 State Natural Areas to promote public access and enjoyment of these properties
- Reviewed and provided consultation or data that facilitated the completion of 101 projects, including waterways, timber management, road construction, and utility projects
- Completed 24 field visits to follow up on rare species avoidance and habitat management guidance requests

## Project Highlight: Recovering and delisting a threatened snake



State Wildlife Grants can help recover listed species, so they no longer need legal protection from the endangered species act. One example is Butler’s Gartersnake, a formerly WI Threatened species that was delisted in 2014. State Wildlife Grants provided much of the funding needed for the Wisconsin DNR to conduct both extensive surveys and genetic studies, ultimately providing the information needed to de-list

